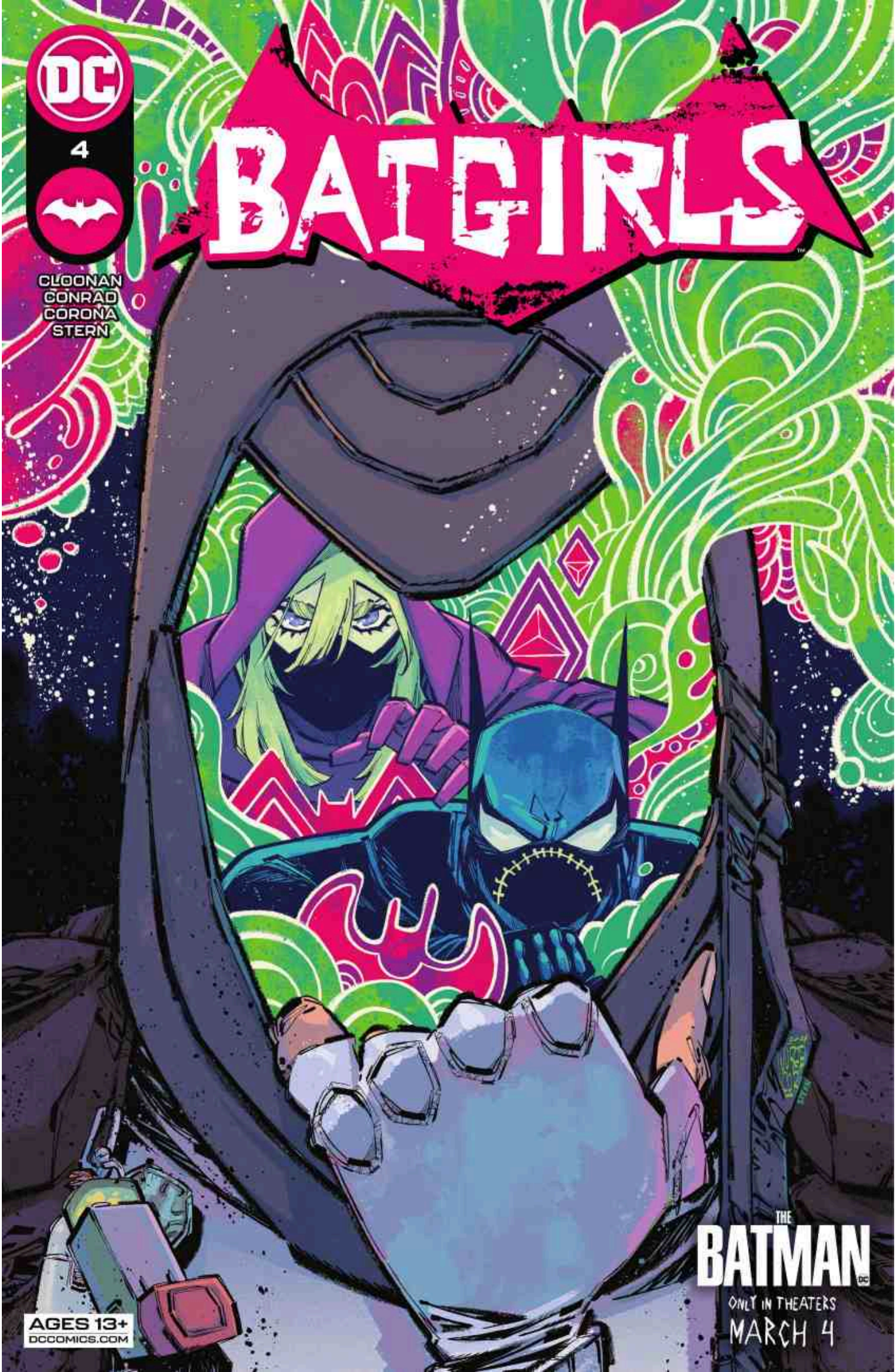
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BATGIRLS
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THE BATMAN
ONLY IN THEATERS
MARCH 4

DC's breakout hero returns to uncover the truth!

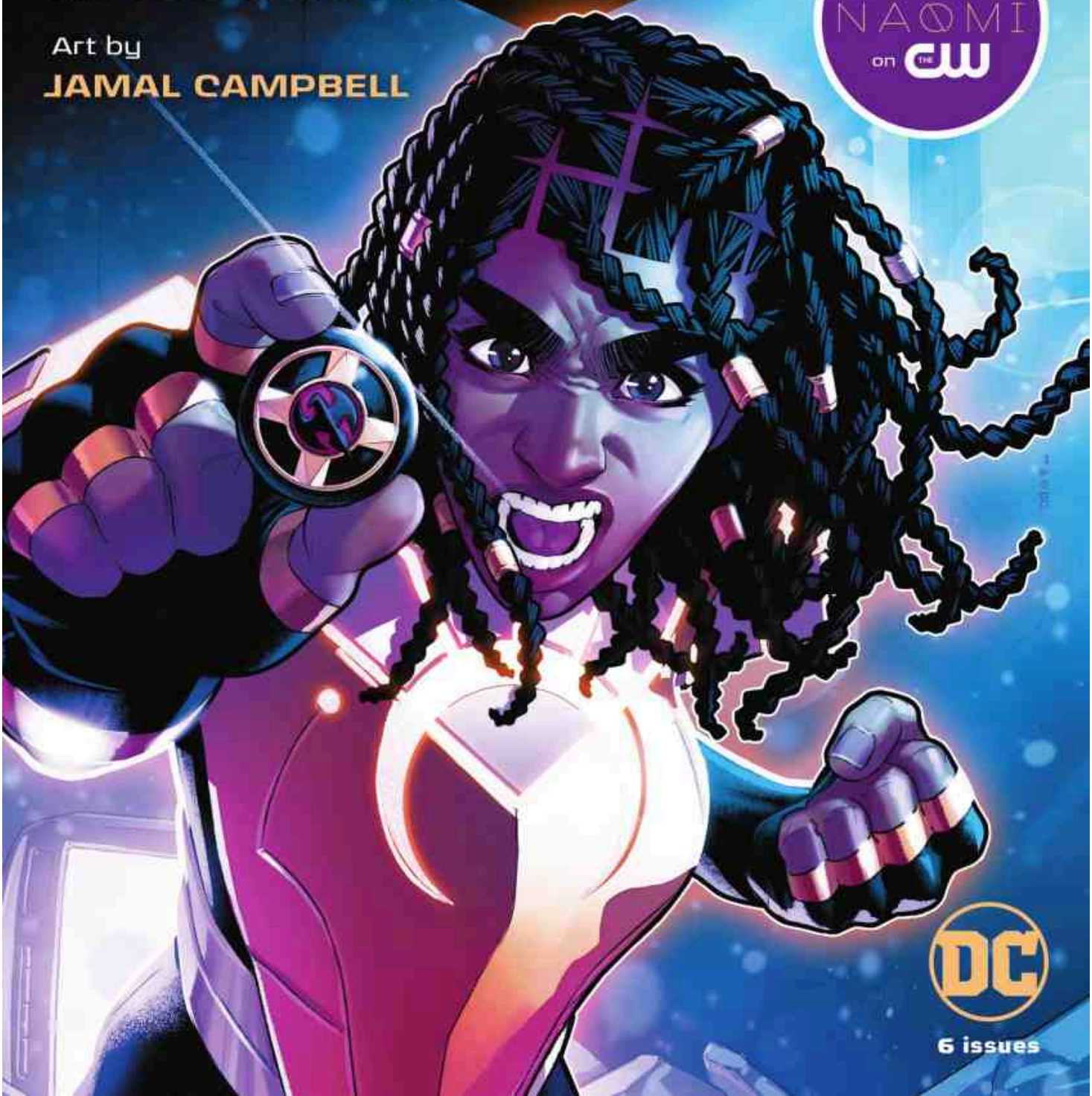
NAOMI

SEASON TWO

Written by
BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
and **DAVID F. WALKER**

Art by
JAMAL CAMPBELL

Watch NAOMI on the CW



DC

6 issues

This is *the Loft*. It doesn't have a fancy code name or anything (yet).
It's a typical building for the Hill neighborhood, except for its very *atypical* inhabitants.

Like *Steph* here...but you can call her *Batgirl*.
GOOD NEWS?
Spellbound
DING

And *Cass*. You can call her *Batgirl*, too.
HM? OH, IT'S NOTHING.
MM-HMM.

YA KNOW, I'LL NEVER GET USED TO HOW EASILY YOU READ MY EXPRESSIONS.
I'M TRAINING THOUGH. ONE DAY I'LL HAVE A POKER FACE OF STEEL!
THE GAME... POKER?

YEAH. LIKE, WHEN YOU BLUFF.
LIE?
I MEAN, THEY'RE BOTH TYPES OF *DECEPTION*, BUT YOU COULD ARGUE THAT...
OH, I'LL EXPLAIN AFTER THE *MORNING MEETING*.

Finally, there's Babs. Also a Batgirl, also Oracle. She contains multitudes.
These are the heroes of our story so far, but if you've been reading, you know that.
You're a great reader, by the way.*
DICK, THANK GOD. I WAS TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU ALL NIGHT!
NO. I JUST...I HAD A DREAM THAT YOU WERE IN TROUBLE.
*AND AN EXQUISITE ART CONNOISSEUR, I MUST SAY --JESS C.
IT'S JUST GOOD TO HEAR YOUR ACTUAL VOICE.
HA, YEAH, THAT WAS A WEIRD THING TO SAY. SORRY, IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT. I'LL GIVE YOU A SHOUT LATER.
WOW, YOU LOOK TIRED. WANT ME TO MAKE COFFEE?
THAT WOULD BE AMAZING.
SEER GOT INTO THE NETWORK, SO I SPENT THE LAST SIX HOURS REBUILDING THE FIREWALL.
SEE? I CAN READ MICRO-EXPRESSIONS TOO.
YOU'RE BLUFFING.
THAT WAS A TEST TO SEE IF YOU'D PICK UP ON IT.
NOW YOU'RE LYING.
:AHEM:
OUR CASELOAD IS TOO HEAVY FOR US TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE AGAINST SEVERAL THREATS AT ONCE...
...SO I PROPOSE THAT TONIGHT WE BRING IT TO THE TUTOR! I'M DRAFTING A PLAN. ONE THAT INCLUDES FILTERS IN YOUR MASKS!
IN THE MEANTIME, TAKE THE DAY OFF...
Thus far, Babs's plan involves a lot of punching. She knows it needs work, but it's nearly there.

"...YOU'VE EARNED IT!"
DAY OFF! THE SKY'S THE LIMIT! WE CAN DO ANYTHING--
--WITHIN REASON!
WOOO!
Bondo is great for joyriding, not so much for gas mileage.
Drawbacks also include the tape stuck in the dash, playing that one song over and over. You know the tune.
Everybody knows it. Nobody likes it.*
*EXCEPT ME. --JESS C.
SOOO... ANY IDEAS? IF I HEAR THIS GUY SAY "ALL-STAR" ONE MORE TIME, I'M GONNA THROW MYSELF OUT OF THE WINDOW.
HERE.
HEY NOW, IT'S A BOOK-STORE! THAT'S OUR NEIGHBOR--
NO WAY!
DID YOU KNOW MR. D OWNS THIS PLACE?
YES.
BOOKS
DING DING
AH, IF IT ISN'T THE HILL'S NEWEST BESTIES! CAN I HELP YOU TWO FIND ANYTHING?
UM...I WANT A BOOK.
YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE. LOOKING FOR ANY TITLE IN PARTICULAR?
WE'VE GOT A ROBUST SELECTION OF NONFICTION--THOUGH IT CAN BE A LITTLE DRY. OR IF YOU PREFER, A SPICY BIOGRAPHY?
NO, NO. FOR YOU, I THINK IT MUST BE THE RUNAWAY--A STORY OF ADVENTURE, ACTION, INTRIGUE... AND A SECRET IDENTITY!
IN BOOK ONE--
DING
EXCUSE ME, ONE MOMENT.
MR. GREENE! I HAVE YOUR ORDER READY...
AAAGH, CASS! LOOK WHO IT IS!

WHOOF. HEAVY STACK, THIS. BUT I WAS ABLE TO SECURE THE ENTIRE COLLECTION!
GOOD. THESE BOOKS HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND.
AS ALWAYS, WE APPRECIATE--
JUST BAG 'EM UP. I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY.
HEY LOOK! DID YOU SEE HOW EASILY HE PICKED UP THOSE BOOKS?! HE COULD TOTALLY MOVE A BODY.
HMM. IT IS POSSIBLE.
DING
SORRY, MR. D, I GOTTA RUN! CASS, I'LL CATCH YA OUTSIDE!
HOW MUCH?
NO, NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT. THE FIRST READ IS ON ME.
I ONLY ASK THAT YOU COME BACK TO TELL ME HOW YOU LIKED IT.
I WILL.
...READING IS FUNDAMENTAL.

DHALIWAL TO WALL BOOKS

STRANGE CAMOUFLAGE.
SSH-- I'M TRAILING MR. GREENE. DIDN'T WANT HIM TO GET EYES ON ME.
OH CRAP, HERE HE COMES! QUICK, ACT CASUAL.

LOOK! SEE? HE'S GOT A SHOVEL...
...FOR DIGGING GRAVES!
BUT NONE OF THE BODIES WERE BURIED.

FINE. GO AHEAD, USE LOGIC.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M JUST GONNA GO UP AND ASK HIM!
RUSTLE

YEAH. JUST WALK STRAIGHT UP TO HIM AND--
UNFH!
WHUMP

SORRY, MY BAD. I WASN'T--
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
HEY-- YOU'RE BARBARA'S FRIEND, RIGHT?
ANNNND... WHO ARE YOU?
THE ART SHOW, REMEMBER? I NEVER FORGET A FACE.
TELL MS. GORDON TO GIVE ME A CALL. TA-TA!
THAT MAN.
I DON'T LIKE HIM, STEPH.
CHARLES DANTE. BABS WAS TALKING TO HIM AT THE ART SHOW.*
HE'S MORE THAN A LITTLE WEIRD. NO WAY HE SAW ME--WE WERE BATGIRLING.
YOU PICK UP ANYTHING OFF THE GUY?
*LAST ISSUE! --JESS C.
HIS FACE... IT'S LIKE A MASK.
HEY, STEPH--
--MR. D CALLED US A... BESTIE?
BESTIE. IT'S LIKE, REALLY GOOD BUDS. BEST BUDS. GROWING UP THE WAY WE DID..THOSE ARE DIFFICULT TO COME BY.
I DUNNO. I USED TO WONDER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE NORMAL, TO HAVE FRIENDS, LET ALONE A BEST FRIEND.
I GUESS WE'RE LUCKY JUST TO BE ALIVE.
VROOOM
DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD--

--AND IN GOTHAM, IF IT GLITTERS IT'S PROBABLY THE FLASHING LIGHTS OF GCPD HEADING TO YET ANOTHER CRIME SCENE.
STILL UNIDENTIFIED, THE KILLER CONTINUES TO SIMULTANEOUSLY STALK THE STREETS AND BAFFLE HOMICIDE DETECTIVES.
THE FORCE'S FUMBLING HAS INCITED INDEPENDENT WEB SLEUTHS TO TAKE UP THE CASE OF WHAT THEY ARE CALLING THE HILL RIPPER.
ONE CAN'T HELP BUT IMAGINE THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A NAME.
COMMS TEST UP.
COULD THE RIPPER BE ONE OF GOTHAM'S ELITE, MURDERING INNOCENTS FOR PERVERSE THRILLS?
OR AN EX-MAGISTRATE SOLDIER OUT FOR REVENGE ON A CITY THAT DARED QUESTION THEIR ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY?
GRACE O'HALLORAN REPORTING LIVE
OR WORSE, IS THE KILLER YET ANOTHER PRODUCT OF OUR FAILED EFFORTS TO PROVIDE--
YOU COPY?
COPY.
SAME. COPY!
GOOD. OPERATION TEACHER'S PET IS ACTIVE.
THE BEACON CASS PLANTED ON TUTOR DURING THE ART SHOW IS ACTIVE. ITS LOCATION IS PINGED ON YOUR GPS.
LET'S KEEP IT TIGHT OUT THERE.

ALL OVER IT, MINIMAL CHATTER.
NOT THAT YOU GOTTA EVEN SAY IT-- WE KNOW HOW IT'S DONE.
SNEAKY. SILENT. LIKE TWO BATS IN THE NIGHT!
WE'VE MASTERED THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE--
STEPH...
HA HA.
SEE? BATGIRL THINKS I'M FUNNY.

THUNK
THUNK
EYES ON.

THEY'RE SLOW.
SAY THE WORD, AND I'LL CATCH THEM.
HOLD, VALENTINE. I'LL CLEAR IT WITH THE BOSS.

TARSUS REPORTING. BATGIRLS ARE MOBILE, HEADING NORTH BY NORTHWEST, ABOUT TWO CLICKS OUT FROM OUR LOCATION.
MAINTAIN DISTANCE, BUT DON'T LOSE THEM.
CHK

COPY THAT.
THE SAINTS ARE TRACKING THE ASSETS.

YOU'RE GETTING CLOSE. THE NEW FILTERS IN YOUR MASKS SHOULD PROTECT AGAINST THE GAS.
BEST TO TRY AND AVOID IT, JUST IN CASE.
COPY.
WE'LL STICK TO THE PLAN...WHICH WAS TO PUNCH HIM A LOT, RIGHT?
FYI, there's more to the plan (but not much).
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, BATGIRLS.
ON MY MARK.
MOVE IN THREE--
TWO--
ONE--
Let's jam.

KABOOM
CRASH
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? WHAT HAPPENED TO STEALTH?
THOUGHT A BIG BANG MIGHT PUT THE FEAR INTO HIM! NO SIGNS OF LIFE THOUGH.
HE MAY HAVE DITCHED THE TRACKER ALTOGETHER. CANVASS THE AREA TO BE SURE AND RECOVER THE UNIT.
CLEAR.
HEY, BATGIRL, CHECK THIS OUT.
REALLY TIES THE ROOM TOGETHER, RIGHT?
IT'S NEW.
YEAH. A LITTLE TOO NEW.
SCHWOOP
A TRAPDOOR!
HOLD UP--THE PING IS MOVING. ARE YOU SURE HE ISN'T...
UNDER US.
BATGIRLS ARE ON THE CASE.
DAP

YUCK. YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF SPIDERS, ARE YOU?
NO.
YEAH, ME NEITHER.
ARE YOU AFRAID OF RATS?
HA, I'M FROM GOTHAM.
I IDENTIFY WITH THEM.
;FWOOOSH;
TUTOR! YOU IN THERE? WE BROUGHT YOU AN AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK.
A DELICIOUS KNUCKLE SANDWICH.
DID YOU ;WHEEEEZE; THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE THE LOCATION DEVICE? I KNEW YOU PUT A BUG ON ME.
YOU DIDN'T TRACK ME DOWN...I OPENED THE DOOR.
VAMPIRES CAN'T ENTER WITHOUT AN INVITE--AND THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.
VAMPIRE ;KOFF; BATGIRLS...
...SUCKING THE BLOOD OF GOTHAM.

YOU WANNA TALK VAMPIRES? DRACULA IS MY FAVORITE BOOK!
BUT I'M NO LUCY, CHUMP. YOU'RE DONE GETTING IN MY HEAD.
WHIP
:COUGH: WANNA BET?
FIRST, WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF!
PING
FSSSSHHK
THAT'LL BE THE FEAR GAS. KEEP YOUR HEADS UP--IT'S HEAVIER THAN AIR, SO STAY ABOVE IT.
ON YOUR FIVE O'CLOCK!
KREE KLAK
REEDUCATE.
DETAIN.
ENLIGHTEN.
STUDENTS--THESE BATGIRLS LACK A HALL PASS.
STOP THEM!

OHFF!
SCHWACK
YOU DARE RAISE A HAND AGAINST ME?
I AM YOUR GUIDE. YOU ARE MY INSTRUMENT!
TRY IT. I DARE YOU.
YOU FEEL IT, BATGIRL? MY FINGERS, MASSAGING YOUR BRAIN...
...BENDING YOUR WILL.
NNH-- NO!
KRAK
THUNK
WHACK
IT'S--IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
YOU NEED TO FIGHT IT!
YOU'RE STRONG. PUSH HIM OUT!
ORACLE, BREAK HER OUT OF IT.
I CAN'T HELP--
--THERE ARE TOO MANY!
SHE ISN'T RESPONDING! CAN YOU GET TO TUTOR?
I--
YES. I WILL.

TEACH ME...
OH, WE SHALL.
BUT FIRST, YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOUR LITTLE FRIEND.
The longer this fight goes on, the greater the chance one of them will hurt the other.
NO!
Cass does not want this.
Duck! Dodge! Weave!
Things look bad, but don't worry. Cass has it under control.
WHOOSH
I WON'T HURT HER!
Roll! Jump--
--and land, right next to Tutor. This way, when Steph throws one of her haymakers...
STOP!
WAKE UP, BATGIRL!
Don't you love when a plan comes together?
KRAK
I NEED YOU!
IT'S ME! YOUR--
SWOOSH
--BEST FRIEND.

I...I WAS--
YOU WERE STRONG. YOU ARE STRONG.
YOU SCREWED UP, BIG TIME. NOW I'M GONNA TEACH YOU SOMETHING.
Hi...So, yeah.
YOU
Steph is using some (justifiably) strong vocab here. To quote the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau--who, beyond having incredible hair, said the following:
OKAY?!
"The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless."
As such, we'll leave you to imagine Steph's dialogue.

KRAK
...AND LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO--
YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED ME.

YOU AREN'T THE FIRST TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE!
UNGHH!
CRACK

NOT EVEN ORIGINAL.
:WHEEZE: :KOFF:
STOP HER!
WHO? THEM?

IT'S THEIR NAP TIME.
UNNGGH...
ORACLE, BATGIRL AND I ARE ABOUT TO BAG AND TAG THIS GUY.
COPY THAT.

IT'S STILL TOO HOT TO BRING HIM TO THE GCPD. KEEP HIM CONTAINED. I'LL FOLLOW UP WITH THE NEXT PART OF THE PLAN.
CONTAIN HIM...
YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

BRRRRAAAAPPPP
BONDO!
TWENTY OR SO DOWN--
--INJURED, BUT ALIVE.
THUMP
NO SIGN OF THE BATGIRLS.
WE JUST GLASSED THEM EXITING THE A.O. WITH A HOSTAGE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE ONES THEY LEFT BEHIND?
SHIF
LEAVE 'EM.
THE GCPD WAS CALLED AND ARE ON THEIR WAY.
RALLY ON OUR MARK.
WE'LL HOLD POSITION UNTIL SAINT DELIVERS OUR NEXT ORDER.

BONDO!
BONDO!
BONDO!

I...NEED...
:WHEEZE:
WE'RE ENTERING THE FINAL PHASE OF "TEACHER'S PET."
I'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO DROP THE PACKAGE OFF AT CHARLES DANTE'S HOME OFFICE. SENDING YOUR GPS A PING. OVER.

WAIT-- YOUR EX'S PLACE?!
HE'S NOT MY EX! HE IS A RESPECTED PSYCHOTHERAPIST WITH A PEDIGREE OF HELPING SOME OF THE TOUGHEST PATIENTS AT ARKHAM.

WE'LL TALK ABOUT CHARLES "IT-DOESN'T-MATTER-IF-HE'S-A-TOTAL-BABE-AND-MY-EX-BECAUSE-HE'S-ALSO-A-GENIUS PSYCHOTHERAPIST" DANTE AFTER THESE, UH, MOPEDS GET US THERE. OVER.
...NEED... :KOFF: GAS...
Bondo is a secret. Don't tell Babs, okay?
RIDE SAFE! ORACLE ACTUAL, OUT.

HANGIN' IN THERE, TUTOR?
MAYBE SOME MUSIC WILL HELP.
Yep, still just that song.
Forcing more than one listen is considered a violation of international humanitarian law.*
*EXCEPT IF YOU'RE ME. THEN IT'S A PARTY. --JESS C.

Tutor will hear it no less than six times tonight. An arguably worse fate than the sing-along the Batgirls subject him to.
It is a living nightmare.

WOW. THIS IS IT, I GUESS. ART THERAPY MUST REALLY PAY THE BILLS!
TAP-TAPPA-TAP-TAP
Shave and a haircut...
...so he knows someone friendly is at the door!
BATGIRL!
OUR MUTUAL FRIEND TOLD ME TO EXPECT YOU. COME, COME IN.
I'M ASSUMING THEY TOLD YOU ABOUT, UH...
...THIS GUY.
OH, INDEED. STREET ARTIST TURNED MENTALIST. FASCINATING CASE.
I'M SURE BARBARA MENTIONED MY BACKGROUND HELPING THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
THIS, ALONG WITH MY WORK AS AN ART THERAPIST, MAY ASSIST IN UNTANGLING THE POOR FELLOW'S MIND.
JUST BE CAREFUL. HE'S--
I'LL FOLLOW UP WITH OUR MUTUAL FRIEND TOMORROW.
I TRUST YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF OUT.

THIS IS A SLIPUP-- MISTAKES WERE BOUND TO HAPPEN.
NOTHING TO FEEL BAD ABOUT. RATHER, WE SHALL CONSIDER IT AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE PROCESS.
PLEASE... :COUGH: I-IT WAS--

NO EXCUSES.
NONE NEEDED, REALLY. I WAS COUNTING ON YOUR FAILURE.
DANTE, I--

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! DURING OUR SESSIONS I AM NO LONGER CHARLES DANTE!

DC COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS
BATGIRLS
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
PART 4 OF 6

BECKY CLOONAN & MICHAEL W. CONRAD STORY
JORGE CORONA ART
SARAH STERN COLORS
BECCA CAREY LETTERS
CORONA WITH STERN COVER
MICHAEL CHO VARIANT COVER
RIAN GONZALES 1:25 VARIANT COVER
JONBOY MEYERS
THE BATMAN MOVIE VARIANT COVER

JESSICA BERBEY ASSISTANT EDITOR
JESSICA CHEN EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY GROUP EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

NEXT:
3 BATGIRLS ARE BETTER THAN 2!

MURDER ON THEMYSCIRA LEADS TO ALL-OUT WAR!
TRIAL OF THE
AMAZONS
Trial of the Amazons #1 • Nubia & the Amazons #6 • Wonder Woman #785 • Trial of the Amazons: Wonder Girl #1 • Wonder Woman #786 • Trial of the Amazons: Wonder Girl #2 • Trial of the Amazons #2
THEMYSCIRANS
LION
BANA-MIGHDALL
WOLF
ESQUECIDA
JAGUAR
THE FIRST WONDER WOMAN CROSSOVER IN DECADES!
A game-changing seven-part event starting in March
Written by
BECKY CLOONAN, VITA AYALA, MICHAEL W. CONRAD, JOËLLE JONES, STEPHANIE WILLIAMS, and JORDIE BELLAIRE
Art by
JOËLLE JONES, ELENA CASAGRANDE, LAURA BRAGA, SKYLAR PATRIDGE, ALITHA MARTINEZ, ROSI KÄMPE, and PAULINA GANUCHEAU
Trial of the Amazons #1 variant cover by Jen Bartel

DC NATION INTERVIEW

PAUL DANO ON THE BATMAN

WHAT IS BATMAN AND RIDDLER'S RELATIONSHIP IN THE FILM?

Edward [the Riddler] is a guy who can't get a leg up in life. He's somebody who's brilliant but was never given the opportunity to move up in the world. He's frustrated at a city which didn't offer him a helping hand his entire life. I think seeing Batman was one of those transcendent moments for Edward, an aha moment, where he sees a hidden piece of himself. I think without the Batman you would never have the Riddler.

WERE YOU A BIG FAN OF THE COMICS GROWING UP?

I'm such a huge fan now. *Batman: Year One* is, without question, my favorite story and the gateway to other Batman comics I have enjoyed. When I was a kid, I was into comics and collected cards, but at a certain age I had stopped. Now, it's fun to open that door again! Comics are really an incredible art form. Even after reading so many, I'm pretty excited that we still have something new to offer the audience.

WHY DO YOU THINK EDWARD FINDS SOLACE IN RIDDLES?

I think that it goes two ways. Matt wrote that the riddles aren't just solace to Edward, they are also the way he tortured himself throughout his life. The "Why?" and "Why Me?" questions. I think riddles were also a place of solace for him because it's one of the only areas he could find comfort growing up. Puzzles, numbers, riddles, and games allow you to give yourself your own reward.

WHY DO YOU THINK BATMAN STILL RESONATES WITH PEOPLE?

I think the Batman is just so psychologically and emotionally interesting. It's so much about the shadow self, which we all have. It's a real sign of how potent the source material still is. You can have so many different filmmakers and actors give their take on Batman, and each one comes out with something different. With *The Batman* it's one of those rare moments where popular culture and art meet at their fullest potential and I'm excited to share this film.

THE BATMAN

IN THEATERS NOW!

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SON OF ULTRON